



City Council Report

Date: July 8, 2021

To: City Council

Through: Scott J. Butler, Deputy City Manager

From: Corinne Nystrom, Airport Director

Subject: Falcon Field Airport – Higley Ramp West Reconstruction
City of Mesa Project No. CP0918
City Council District No. 5

Purpose and Recommendation

The purpose of this report is to recommend that the City Council adopt the attached Resolution, which authorizes the City Manager, or his designated representative, to execute an Airport Improvement Program (AIP) Grant Agreement between the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the City of Mesa (City) to reconstruct the Higley Ramp West at Falcon Field Airport (Airport) if federal funding becomes available. The Grant Agreement will cover the estimated costs for construction only.

To ensure that the Resolution is approved by City Council and the Grant Agreement is fully executed by the City and returned to FAA prior to the close of the federal fiscal year, the FAA is recommending that the City execute the Grant Agreement as soon as the grant funds become available. This may occur while City Council is on summer break.

A draft Grant Agreement is attached for your review. If grant funds become available for this project, the actual Grant Agreement will be provided to the City for signature.

Background

Higley Ramp West was originally constructed in 2001. The Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) evaluated the Ramp pavement in May 2017. The evaluation concluded that the pavement is at the end of its service life and that routine maintenance is no longer a sufficient solution to protect the current pavement and extend its longevity.

As part of the Airport Capital Improvement Program, City staff is proposing the reconstruction of the Higley Ramp West. This project is included in the approved City Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for FY2021-2022.

Discussion

This project includes full removal and replacement of the existing asphalt pavement and the removal and replacement of all aircraft tie-down locations. It will include milling the top two inches of asphalt surface course, cleaning and sealing all cracks, and paving two inches of new asphalt surface course over the milled surface. This project will improve operational safety by eliminating surface cracks and asphaltic spalling. It will also reduce the possibility of damage to aircraft from potholes and displaced rocks and gravel.

If the grant funds do not become available in the current federal funding cycle, the project will be postponed until the funds become available.

Community Impact

There is no anticipated impact to the neighboring community from this project.

Alternatives

The first alternative is to decline the FAA's grant offer (even if funding becomes available) and not execute the Grant Agreement. In this case, the City would be required to pay 100% of the project cost or postpone the project to a later date. Because of the age and condition of the existing pavement and the need for safety, this is not the recommended option. The second, and recommended alternative, is to approve the Resolution and authorize the City Manager, or his designated representative, to sign the Grant Agreement as soon as grant funds become available.

Fiscal Impact

The total estimated cost of this project is \$3,320,343. This includes costs for both design and construction. However, the anticipated amount of federal funding is only \$2.8 million. Because ADOT is not issuing any matching grants for federal grant projects this year, it will be necessary to pay for the remaining estimated cost with Airport Enterprise funds. This amount is approximately \$520,343.

Coordinated With

Airport staff has been coordinating this project with the City Engineering Department, and they are supportive of this project.